GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5291
ANSWERED ON:05.05.2008
MOBILE TELEPHONE SERVICE IN RURAL AREAS
Chavda Shri Harisinh Pratapsinh;Thummar Shri Virjibhai

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set any target for providing mobile telephone service in the rural areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years and till date. State-wise and the extent to which the set target has been achieved, year-wise;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the corrective steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA)

(a) to (c) Government has not fixed any target in the past for providing mobile telephone service in the rural areas of the country. However, New Telecom Policy, 1999 (NTP-99) envisaged a target of 4% teledensity in rural areas both in wireline and wireless by the year 2010. As against the same, the rural teledensity of 9.03 has already been achieved as on 29.02.2008.

(d) To increase the penetration of mobile services in rural areas the Government has further initiated the following steps:-

A scheme has recently been launched by Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) to provide subsidy support for setting up and managing 7871 number of infrastructure sites (towers) in 500 districts spread over 27 states for provision of mobile services in the specified rural and remote areas, where there is no existing fixed wireless or mobile coverage.

Government have issued guidelines on passive as well as active Infrastructure Sharing for Service Providers and Infrastructure Providers.